

causing the study of physiology to enter as an essential item into every scheme of general education. We are indeed somewhat surprised that so important a branch of natural philosophy should have been so long allowed to remain the sole property of the medical profession.

The system of popular physiology of Mr. Lord is a very interesting and excellent manual of the science, and well adapted for the purpose for which it is professedly published, the instruction, namely, of the general reader.

"To investigate the laws of animated nature," remarks the author in his second chapter; "to trace the plant from the seed, or the animal from the ovum; to observe them developing the qualities, or performing the duties to which they have been destined by an all-wise Creator; to inquire into the beautiful structure and arrangement of organs by which they are enabled to 'live and have their being,' to notice their rise, progress, and gradual decay, from the time that, radiant with youth and beauty, they spring up to life and the light of day, until, exhausted and worn out, their appointed time being come, they again return to the earth 'whence they were taken.' Such are the interesting, the all-absorbing objects of a science that has hitherto been considered too dull and abstract to engage the attention of general readers, too theoretical and inconclusive to extend beyond the schools of medical philosophy.

"That in the pursuit of physiological knowledge there are many difficulties to be overcome, it is not attempted to deny. 'The Gods,' says the old poet, 'have placed labour and toil in the way leading to the Elysian fields.' But many of these difficulties arise from the subject being enveloped in technical language, and interspersed with technical details, interesting only to the profession for which works on this subject have hitherto been composed. The habit, too, of presupposing a knowledge of anatomy, which general readers cannot be supposed to possess, has increased the obstacles that lay in the way of this proper study of mankind."

In the present little work, an attempt has been made to obviate some of the above difficulties. The prominent facts of the science are stated, as far as is practicable in familiar language. Anatomical details are introduced to the extent necessary for understanding the physiological matters under consideration, and well executed wood-cuts are resorted to whenever they can be made an efficient mode of explanation.

D. F. C.

XIX. Essays and Lectures on Medical Subjects. By JOHN P. HARRISON, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica in the Cincinnati College. Philadelphia, 1835. 12mo. pp. 192.

These essays and lectures are evidently the productions of an active and vigorous mind—a mind nevertheless, that we should shrewdly suspect, is a little more fond of general declamation than of a course of close inductive reasoning; a mind we fear more ready to join in the sneer at modern theories in physiology and medicine as too fanciful and hypothetical, than to sit down industriously to their investigation, and to test their accordance with the facts and arguments adduced in their support. It is this perhaps which has lead the author not unfrequently into the error of attributing absurdities to doctrines to which they have no other relation, excepting that created by his own imagination, and of setting down as opposed by experience that which in fact, all experience confessedly establishes.

With all their faults, the essays and lectures before us contain nevertheless many excellent things, and if they be not marked by great originality, they at least exhibit no little vigour of thought.

We regret, however, that more attention had not been paid to the correctness of the press—numerous typographical errors occur, often under circumstances where they show to the greatest disadvantage in a professional work, namely, in technical terms and proper names. Thus homœopathy is invariably spelled homœopathy, and it is said to be derived from the Greek ὁμοίος alike, and πάθος disease; spiral marrow occurs for spinal marrow; Bouilland for Bouillaud, &c. &c. In a work like the present, correctness, if not beauty of typography, was at least to be expected.

D. F. C.

XX. A Popular Essay on the value and present condition of the practice of Vaccination; embracing a consideration of all the points important to be understood by the heads of Families, and particularly of Revaccination. By a Physician. New York, 1835. 8vo. pp. 38.

The present pamphlet appears to have been written for the very laudable and important purpose of placing before the general reader the leading facts, in relation to the cow pox, which, when carefully weighed, must have a tendency to confirm, rather than diminish the confidence of every reflecting physician in the protective powers of vaccination.

For the accomplishment of this object, the essay is well adapted, and we should like to see it extensively circulated among the heads of families. We know of none on the same subject in which we find so little to object to, either in relation to what is advanced as fact, or in reference to the general conclusions of the author. Even on the subject of revaccination we are not inclined to dispute with him as to the correctness of his views, provided, always the revaccination is not resorted to under the supposition that the protective influence of the first operation becomes diminished, and finally lost with the lapse of years, but solely as the only certain means of testing whether the patient's system is fully protected, when we are ignorant of the facts connected with the first vaccination.

D. F. C.

XXI. A Manual of Aphorisms in Chemistry; the Chemico-Pharmaceutical Preparations and Decompositions of the London Pharmacopœia, and Toxicology, Comprehending the Symptoms, Diagnosis, Morbid Appearances, Antidotes, Treatment, and Methods of Detecting Poisons, &c. By ROBERT VENABLES, A. M., M. B. Oxon. Physician to the Fore Street Dispensary; Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, and on Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology. London, 1834. p. 251. 12mo.

We have been much pleased with this little work, which comprises in a small compass a great variety of information of the highest value to the medical chemist. By presenting his doctrines and facts in the form of aphorisms, and thus avoiding useless words and unimportant details, the author has been enabled